

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Bible Class   | 29 |
| Attendance AM | 94 |
| Attendance PM | 34 |
| Wednesday PM  | 39 |

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Phil & Kim Tydings; Brenda Mamula; Otis & Glenna Adair; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stones Springs); Jennifer Arnette; Penny and Patrick Cook; Ron and Virginia Robbins

**Traveling:** Richard Melson, Jr. (work); Norris Cole, II; Eslick family; Richard & Valerie Melson; Ashley & Alexandria Thomas

**Prayers:**

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:** Dollie Jones; DeWitt, Vance, Murphy and turner families

**Birthdays: September**— 3 Ruby Holt; 5 Michael Blanks, Jr. 27 Christina Barnes; 29 Florine Thomas

**Anniversaries: September** — 1— Chris and Tally Poole; 27—Dollie and Samuel Jones

**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class Sept 28 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 11

**Potter Children's Home:**

| September 24         | BRETHREN TO SERVE AM | BRETHREN TO SERVE PM |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Opening Prayer       | Anthony Grigsby      | Norris Cole          |
| Song Leader          | Chris Poole          | Michael Blanks, Jr.  |
| Lead Lord's Supper   | Patrick Thomas       | Patrick Thomas       |
| Server 1             | Denzil Turner, III   | Anthony Grigsby      |
| Server 2             | James Grigsby        | Lyle Cole            |
| Scripture Reader     | Ryan McGahee         | Patrick Thomas       |
| Sermon               | Kevin Berry          | Kevin Berry          |
| Prayer for Responses | Norris Cole          | Norris Cole          |
| Closing Prayer       | Frank Brock          | Frank Brock          |
| Announcements        | Patrick Cook         | Patrick Cook         |
| Greeter              | John Bouse           | John Bouse           |
| Usher                | Anthony Grigsby      | Anthony Grigsby      |
| Usher                |                      |                      |

**A.S.A.P. = Always Say A Prayer**

**"Pray without ceasing"**  
1 Thessalonians 5:17

**TO OUR VISITORS**

Our goal in the church of Christ is to be the New Testament church, which you can read about in the Bible. We invite you to observe our worship assemblies, the doctrine that is taught and the structure of the church organization. Make a close comparison with your "church" and the church of the Bible -- **The Church of Christ**. We also invite you to join us as we strive to be the church of the Bible and restore New Testament Christianity.

**Needmore Road church of Christ**  
2211 Needmore Road  
Dayton, Ohio 45414-9998

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Visit our website at <https://www.needmoreroadcoc.com>



# THE EDIFIER

Volume 04

September 24, 2023

Issue 39

## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD –PART 2

Roy J. Hearn

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**Meeting Location:**

2211 Needmore Rd  
Dayton, OH 45414

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday**

Bible Study 9:30  
Worship 10:30 A.M.  
5:00 P.M.

1st Sunday No 5:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study  
7:00 P.M.

**Preacher**

Richard D. Melson  
937-321-3973  
dr.rdmelson@yahoo.com

**Ministers**

All Members

**Supporting**

- Christian Courier
- Southwest School of Bible Studies: Austin, TX
- Memphis School of Preaching
- Greater Midwest Lectureship
- Potter Children's Home
- Midwestern School of Preaching
- Central Carolina School of Preaching

**There are degrees of light.** Long ago, the only light I had to hold gospel meetings was a pine knot (some city people do not know what that is; never saw one. It comes from a pine tree where the limb joins the trunk and is very rich. It burns like it was soaked with kerosene.) Then the gas jet was invented and gave more light. The electric light is still brighter, but nothing compares to the sun.

Then there is the "lightning bug grade". It comes and goes, on again, off again. That is the way of some Christians. They do not shine steadily, even at worship. They are spasmodic, and do not make much light.

Some Christians say: "If I could shine like So and So I would do thus and so." Then some say: "If I had a million dollars I would do thus and so." If one does not use the dollar he had, he would not do any better with a million.

**How is it that Christians are light?** First, due to the fact that they sustain a relationship to Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world (John 1:4-9). Christ lives in the Christian and gives us the quality of spiritual light (Gal. 2:20). Christ makes us lights, and we are to walk as "children of light" (Eph. 5:8). The Philippians were to shine, as it were, as lights in the world (Phil. 2:15-16). Christians are to reflect the light of Christ. The moon reflects the light of the sun at night. In the morning the dew sparkles like myriads of diamonds as it reflects the sunlight. A lodestone magnet will draw the pile of pins on the table. A knife blade will not do so of itself. But rub the knife blade against the lodestone then it will draw the pins. One cannot get the fire into the poke, until he gets the poker into the fire, then it will glow. So, one must get into Christ before he can let his light shine. For one to claim to be an artist or a musician, he must do something to demonstrate it. For one to claim to be a Christian, he must likewise demonstrate it. Christians are to be a contrast between light and darkness (1 Thess. 5:4-7).

**Ways our light may be snuffed out.** As long as the ship is in the ocean, all is well, when the ocean gets into the ship, there is danger. The church is in the world, but when the world gets into the church, that is tragedy. There are some places lamps or candles won't shine, as in a draft or wind, and in caves where there is poison gas.

There are some places the Christian light won't shine. How much good do you think it would do for a Christian to talk to someone about his soul while frequenting a beer parlor, or race track, or gambling den, dance hall and wild parties? What harm? someone asks. What good? The Christian is to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5:11).

Christians are to let their lights shine individually and collectively. The church must take the gospel into all the world, and individuals make up the church. Are you doing your part?

# Words of Wisdom For Youth ... 1 Timothy 4:12

## How strong is your rope?



In his book, A Grief Observed, C. S. Lewis said, “You never know how much you really believe until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death. It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong as long as you are merely using it to cord a box. But suppose you had to hang by that rope over a precipice. Wouldn’t you then first discover how much you really trusted it?”

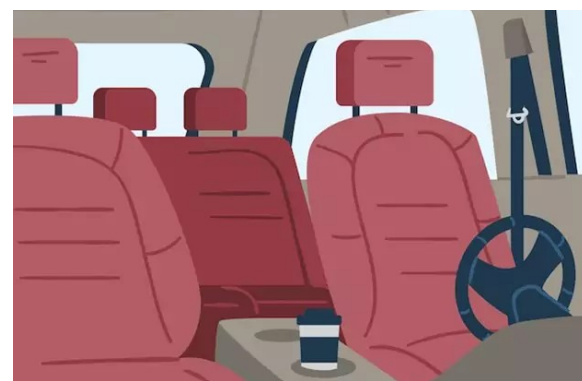
Consider three questions: What kind of faith do you have in God and His word? Has your faith been tested yet? Have you been in that situation where it is a matter of life and death, hanging over that precipice? If your faith has not yet been tested, you can be sure that the time is coming when it will be tested.

James said, “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (James 2:17-20).

Is your faith dead or alive? “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:21-24). Abraham was ready. His rope held, even to the point of sacrificing Isaac. How strong is your rope? Will it hold? If not, now is the time to strengthen it.

- Bob Prichard

## Sitting in the right seat

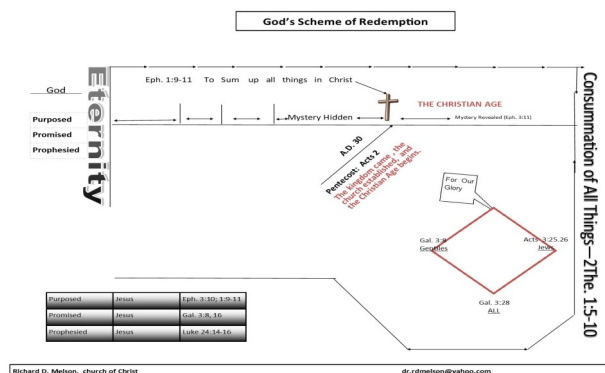


Have you ever watched a movie or television show where a character is determined to be the driver and not the passenger? In the scene, he often grabs the keys from his friend and jumps in the left door of the car, only to realize that he’s in a foreign country and the steering wheel is on the right side of the car. It makes for a good laugh.

How often do we “play that game” with Jesus? How often do we want to be the one in the driver seat? Well, if you are in the driver seat of your life, where does that put Jesus? In the passenger seat? In the back seat? Left standing on the curb?

If Jesus is truly going to have THE place in our lives that He demands, expects and deserves, it requires that we “deny” ourselves (Matt. 16:24), that we “humble” ourselves before Him (1 Pet. 5:6), that we “submit” to Him (Jas. 4:7), that we “trust” Him (1 Tim. 4:10), that we “follow” Him (Luke 9:23), and that we “obey” Him (Heb. 5:9). Put Christ in the driver seat of your life! He will take you where you truly want to go! He will never steer you wrong!

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



### To Sift You As Wheat

The question of suffering is one with which man has wrestled throughout history.

Why does it happen? Is there any good to come from it? Luke 22:31-32 contains 3 truths to remember when facing trial and temptation.

**First, Satan means to destroy you.** The word “ask” in the passage carries the sense of “demanding.” It brings to mind the scenes of Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-6 in which Satan demanded to test Job. And the sifting which he has in mind is not intended to strengthen but to destroy the faith of the apostles. We sometimes downplay the allure of temptation in this world as if we have mastered the flesh or perhaps we are simply above being affected by some things. Do not be deceived. The Devil wants to destroy you and leave you shattered on an ash heap of misery. No one is exempt (cf. 1 Cor. 10:12).

**Second, the Lord truly cares for you.** Jesus said “Satan has asked for you,” plural, but singled our Peter in saying “But I have prayed for you,” singular. The Lord knew Peter better than Peter knew himself, and prayed for him to win the victory. Similar sentiments could be expressed about you and me. No, Jesus is not here in the flesh praying for us as He did for Peter, but He still cares and He is still on our side. He is our advocate (1 John 2:2) and our compassionate High Priest who sympathizes with us and through whom we may approach the throne of grace to find help when we need it (Heb. 4:14-16).

Such an comforting truth should be always on our minds.

**Third, trial is not necessarily a bad thing.** Satan desired to sift Peter which, in this context, means that he sought to destroy him. But the image of sifting can also refer to separating the good from the bad, as in separating the wheat from the chaff. James said “count it all joy when you fall into various trials” (Jas. 1:2) and “Blessed is the man who endures temptation” (Jas. 1:12). We tend to see only the bad in struggling and suffering without ever considering what good may come from it.

- Cody Westbrook

I am in Greensboro, NC completing a Friday—Sunday meeting at the Wendover congregation—Richard

- October 1, First Sunday Fellowship Meal
- October 7, Men's Business Meeting @ 9:00 AM



## NEWS AND NOTES

- Visit these online resources: [www.wvbs.org](http://www.wvbs.org) ; [www.apologeticspress.org](http://www.apologeticspress.org) ; [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org) ; <http://gbntv.org/> ; <http://kibbystreetcoc.org/index.php/let> (Let The Bible Speak); <https://fun1071.fm>; soulofdayton.com (8:00 AM)
- View: In Search of the Lord's Way— Dish- Sunday 7:00 am Channel 239; DirecTV Channel 307; GBN 7 PM
- Check out Tullstar Archives at <http://media.Tullstar.org> for lessons from faithful brethren.

## GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN'S SALVATION

“Sirs, What must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:30

- The Gospel Must Be Heard – John 6:44-45; Romans 10:17; John 8:32
- The Gospel Must Be Believed—John 8:24; Mark 16:16
- Sins Must Be Repented of – Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38
- Christ Must Be Confessed—Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37
- There Must Be Baptism (Immersion) for Remission (forgiveness) of Sins—Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21
- Christian Growth and Faithfulness—1 Peter 2:2; Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 3:18